

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9, 11-13, 19 are presently active. Claims 10, 14-18, and 20-23 have been previously cancelled without prejudice. Claims 24-30 have been presently canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In the Office Action, Claims 24 and 29-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,981,408 to Hughes et al in view of Japanese Patent No. 6100164 to Kitsunai et al and in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,091,217 to Hey et al; Claims 25-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hughes et al and Kitsunai et al and Hey et al and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,417,537 to Miller; and Claims 1-9, 11-13, and 19 were indicated as being allowed.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowance for Claims 1-9, 11-13, and 19.

In order to expedite allowance, Claims 24-30 have been canceled.

This amendment is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.116 which permits entering of amendments canceling claims. The present amendment by cancelling Claims 24-30 places this application in a condition for allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. §1.116, and the application passed to allowance.

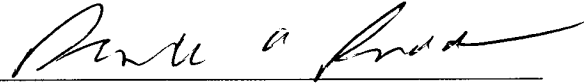
Application No. 10/500,102

Reply to Office Action dated February 25, 2009 and Advisory Action dated June 12, 2009

In light of the above discussions, the outstanding ground for rejection is moot. The application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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